

programs in America, Medicare, a program not only important for seniors, but important for hospitals and doctors all across the United States.

The Republicans have found themselves in this box, they have painted themselves in this corner, because they insist on tax breaks for the wealthiest people and absolving corporations from paying their Federal taxes, and they want to make up the difference by cutting Medicare. That is not fair.

I hope the Republicans will get off this premise that they have to give these tax cuts to the privileged few and focus on the truly important programs like Social Security and Medicare.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTOMOTIVE AND AUTO PARTS NEGOTIATIONS

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an extremely important issue facing the automotive and auto parts industry. The United States-Japan framework talks were initiated in July 1993, but no agreement has been reached in these critical areas which amount to 60 percent of the United States bilateral deficit with Japan. Now these 1993 talks are only part of an effort that is now 10 years long to deal with very substantial nontariff barriers that Japan throws up to American auto parts and American automobiles even though that is the biggest item of our bilateral deficit. In recent years, as a result of these talks and all of the efforts that have been made, yes, Japan has increased the purchase of American parts, but only for those factories that produce in America.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to maintain a strong industrial base in America, we must be able to export quality, cost-competitive United States auto parts and automobiles everywhere in the world, even to Japan, and I strongly support the need for a negotiated agreement with Japan and support our United States Trade Representative, Mickey Kantor, in his efforts.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JOSEPH NOVABILSKI, AN AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a fallen hero. On Monday, May 1, in Prince Georges County, MD, we buried Police Corporal John Joseph Novabilski, known as "Nova."

Corporal Novabilski was killed in uniform while sitting in his cruiser working as an off-duty security guard. Allegedly, following an earlier argument, his assailant walked up from behind and shot Novabilski 11 times.

Officer Novabilski first joined the Prince Georges police force in 1988. He took his job as an officer of the law seriously, and sought duty in high crime areas. He was also compassionate, using his own money to buy toys for poor youngsters in the neighborhood. His fellow officers knew him for his big, warm smile and good humored griping.

At the funeral, a friend, Kirk Mullings, described Corporal Novabilski as a good man who wanted nothing more than to fall in love with a good woman, have many good friends, and do the job he loved.

On behalf of the citizens of Prince Georges County and the State of Maryland, I want to say to his wife, Karen, and his family that we appreciate what John did to help our community and we'll long remember his efforts. May God rest his soul. John Joseph Novabilski, American hero.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTO PARTS NEGOTIATIONS

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the meetings that begin today in Canada between the world's four economic powers mark another critical juncture in this country's ongoing effort to level the playing field for Japanese-American automotive trade. Although progress has been made in this area since talks began 4 years ago, much remains to be done.

This is not a question of demanding one-sided concessions: an improved trade situation is in the interest of both countries. Motor vehicle and equipment manufacturing is the largest U.S. manufacturing industry, and a cornerstone of America's industrial base. The "Big Three" alone—Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors—employ almost 700,000 Americans, and are among the largest employers of research engineers and scientists in the country. Thus the health of the U.S. auto industry has far-reaching implications for the larger U.S. economy and its competitiveness. Japan stands to gain, as well, including Japanese consumers, who currently pay prices for auto parts that are on average 340 percent higher than for identical parts in the United States.

Resolution of this crucial imbalance can set an important precedent, not only for anyone seeking access to Japan's markets, but also for American access to and competitiveness in other critical markets overseas. I strongly urge Ambassador Kantor to continue his effective leadership on this issue. I am confident that with a healthy balance of trade, this important relationship can flourish rather than flounder.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. speaker, I must rise today to speak out against the proposed reductions in Medicare spending which I feel will devastate our Nation's elderly.

Under the guise of protecting and strengthening the Medicare trust fund, Republicans have proposed billions in reductions in future spending over the next 7 years. Republicans have pledged not to cut Social Security, interest on the debt, or defense in order to pay for their tax cuts, therefore, the only remaining source from which to cut is Medicare.

The Medicare trust fund should be addressed appropriately as a long-term problem and should take into careful consideration the needs of our Nation's seniors. This debate should take place apart from the budget debate and apart from efforts to salvage the cynical, public opinion poll-driven Contract for American campaign promises.

Mr. Speaker, I call once again for compassion for the elderly of our society, another vulnerable, defenseless group which must be protected.

THE USUAL CLASS-WARFARE RHETORIC ON MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, there are some things going on here in Washington the American people really ought to know about. Members of President Clinton's Cabinet have raised some very serious questions about the long-term health of Medicare. A report by the Medicare trustees concludes that Medicare will begin losing money next year and could become insolvent by the year 2001, and, by the way, this Medicare board includes Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, Labor Secretary Robert Reich, and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

Now, last Friday, the Speaker of the House wrote the President expressing his concerns over this matter and communicated a willingness to work together on a solution, but the news about Medicare has apparently fallen on deaf ears at the White House and on this side of the House because the Speaker's letter is being dismissed with the usual class-warfare rhetoric. In fact, Leon Panetta suggested the White House will do nothing to help fix Medicare.

This is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. Medicare is going broke and all the White House can offer up is class-warfare rhetoric. This shows a total avoidance of responsibility and a lack of respect to older Americans who expect leadership from Washington, and not excuses, not class-warfare.